

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1735

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CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 5723

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION COMPROMISE

REF: SEOUL 5646

1. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE JULY 28 TO REVISE LAW CONCERNING TESTIMONY AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WAS VETOED JULY 25. UNEXPECTED VETO RESULTED IN STRONG INITIAL OPPOSITION REACTION, INCLUDING CANCELLATION SEOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP OF NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM (REFTEL).

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, DRP, YUCHONGHOE AND NDP FLOOR LEADERS MET AND AGREED THAT NEW MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BILL WOULD BE JOINTLY DRAFTED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING REGULAR ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20. HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITION HAS SAID THAT IT WILL NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF NEW BILL UNLESS GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RESTRICT CHANGES TO THE SECTION DEALING WITH TESTIMONY ON NATIONAL SECURITY (ROKG VETOED BILL ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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GROUND THAT LAW AS PASSED IS IN CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAW AMENDMENT WHICH ALLOWS GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE TO DISCLOSE NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION TO ASSEMBLY.)

3. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN HAS TOLD US THAT, ALTHOUGH KIM YONG-SAM IS BEING CRITICIZED FROM WITHIN THE PARTY FOR RETREATING SWIFTLY FROM INITIAL STRONG PROTEST POSITION, IN THE END PARTY WILL PROBABLY NEGOTIATE NEW VERSION OF LAW AS AGREED. ASSEMBLYMAN DID NOTE THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE TO USE GOVERNMENT'S RENEGING ON PROMISE AS NEGOTIATING TOOL AND WILL POSTPONE FINAL AGREEMENT ON NEW BILL UNTIL WELL INTO REGULAR ASSEMBLY SESSION.

4. KIM YONG-SAM HAS SO FAR NOT AGREED TO RESCHEDULE HIS SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP. HOWEVER, NDP ASSEMBLYMAN HAS TOLD US THAT KIM WILL PROBABLY FIND FACE SAVING OPPORTUNITY TO RESCHEDULE TRIP WITHIN A FEW WEEKS TIME.
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